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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 5-19 are added and are pending.

New claims 5-19 are readable on the elected invention. The new claims are supported by the original disclosure, for example page 33, line 26 to page 34, line 24 and Figures 40-42. No new matter has been added.

The title has been amended to be consistent with the current claims. The specification has also been amended to correct typographical errors.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 3,440,909 to Schmid et al. (Schmid). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereto moot.

However, as applied to new claims 5-19, Schmid does not disclose a forming die apparatus with a lower die assembly that includes a lower support base having a hole defined therein that is configured to hold the shaft of the disk-shaped part. In Schmid, counter-member 24 has holes to allow passage of the hole punches 30. The counter-member 24 does not have a hole that is configured to hold a shaft of a disk-shaped part. Nor does Schmid suggest such an arrangement, since the apparatus of Schmid is not intended to work on a disk-shaped part with a shaft.

The holes in Schmid through which the hole punches 30 extend are not equivalent to the claimed hole in the lower support base, since neither hole in the counter-member 24 of Schmid is configured to hold the shaft of a disk-shaped part.

In addition, Schmid does not disclose a lower support base that is biased in a direction toward an upper die assembly. In Schmid, a counter-ram 26 and a shaft 25 are used to force the counter-member 24 upward (see column 4, lines 39-42). However, the counter-member 24 is not biased in a direction toward the top force block 12.

For at least these reasons, claims 5-19 are patentable over Schmid.

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In view of the above, early issuance of a notice of allowance is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Curtis B. Hamre, Reg. 29,165, at (612) 455-3802.



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Respectfully submitted,

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